

This Page Is Inserted by IFW Operations  
and is not a part of the Official Record

## **BEST AVAILABLE IMAGES**

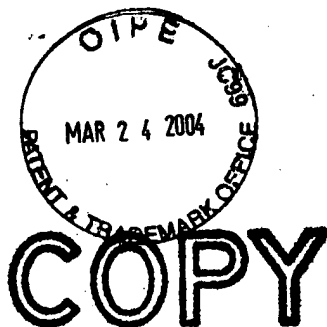
Defective images within this document are accurate representations of the original documents submitted by the applicant.

Defects in the images may include (but are not limited to):

- BLACK BORDERS
- TEXT CUT OFF AT TOP, BOTTOM OR SIDES
- FADED TEXT
- ILLEGIBLE TEXT
- SKEWED/SLANTED IMAGES
- COLORED PHOTOS
- BLACK OR VERY BLACK AND WHITE DARK PHOTOS
- GRAY SCALE DOCUMENTS

**IMAGES ARE BEST AVAILABLE COPY.**

**As rescanning documents *will not* correct images,  
please do not report the images to the  
Image Problem Mailbox.**



Express Mail Mailing Label No. EV289511652US

PATENT  
Attorney Docket No.: ASC-022CPCN

**Particulars of prior application:**

Serial No.: 09/599,260  
Filing Date: June 22, 2000  
Examiner: R. Kunemund of Art Unit 1765  
Status: Allowed

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

APPLICANT:	Wu et al.		
SERIAL NO.:	Not yet assigned	GROUP NO.:	Not yet assigned
FILING DATE:	Herewith	EXAMINER:	Not yet assigned
TITLE:	ETCH STOP LAYER SYSTEM		

Mail Stop Patent Application  
Commissioner for Patents  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Sir:

Please enter the following preliminary amendment before beginning examination of the above-identified continuation patent application.

**AMENDMENTS**

**In the Specification:**

On page 1, after the heading "PRIORITY INFORMATION," please rewrite the paragraph on lines 4-6 as:

This application is a continuation application of Serial No. 09/599,260 filed June 22, 2000, which is a continuation-in-part application of Serial No. 09/289,514 filed April 9, 1999, which claims priority from provisional application Serial No. 60/081,301 filed April 10, 1998.